(e) whether it is a fact that Murthy Committee's recommendation for increase in price of Betamathasone and its salts was wrong and without any basis; and

(f) if so, whether any study was made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) In the pharmaceutical sector, BICP conducts the cost-cum-technical studies of the bulk drugs for the purpose of price fixation. BICP is only a recommendatory body, and its recommendations are confidential in nature. The prices of Betamethasone and its salts as notified by the Government from time to time after DPCO, 1979 are given in the attached statement. (*See below*)

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Statement**

| Date of Notification | Betamethasone Alcohol Rs/Kg. | Betamethasone Valeorate Rs./Kg. | Betamethasone di-Sodium Sulphate Rs./Kg. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12-5-1981 . . . | 113.34 | 105.81 | 126.23 |
| 20-11-1986 . . . | 127.70 | 122.00 | 135.00 |
| 2-1-1989 . . . | 144.19 | 136.58 | 144.58 |
| 9-10-1991 . . . | 149.42 | 143.31 | 149.21 |
| 28-10-1992 . . . | 164.89 | 164.29 | Exempted from price control on the basis of R&D. |

**Adverse impact of new pricing policy on indigenous fertilizer units**

531. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : SHRI N.E. BALARAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the new pricing policy for fertilizers has adverse impact on the indigenous fertilizer manufacturing units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interest of the indigenous fertilizer manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Government have, in recent past, taken measures to provide relief to the fertilizer industry. These measures are —abolition of customs duty on import of capital goods for setting up of new plants and for renovation of old plants, abolition of customs duty on imported phosphoric acid, availability of foreign exchange at official rate for import of raw materials/intermediates for manufacture of DAP and complex fertilizers, etc.

532. [*Transferred to the 4th December, 1992*]

533. [*Transferred to the 4th December, 1992*]

**New fertilizer units**

534. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up five new fertilizer units during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the broad features of the programme indicating the cost, location of plants, and additional capacity to be installed, itemwise;

(c) the steps being taken in that directions; and

(d) whether any NRI and Foreign Collaboration Project has submitted their proposals; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The following fertilizer projects are being set up or likely to come up during the Eighth Five Year Plan, indicating their production capacity, likely investment, location and present status :